

News from the WMO Secretariat

Visits of the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General, Mr Michel Jarraud, recently made official visits to a number of Member countries as briefly reported below. He wishes to place on record his gratitude to those Members for the kindness and hospitality extended to him.

Cyprus

On 15 September 2006, the Secretary-General participated in the event marking the official launching of the WMO cartoon booklet "We care for our climate", which was translated into Greek and published by the National Meteorological Service of Cyprus. During the ceremony, which was organized by the Meteorological Service and the Ministry of Education, Mr Jarraud thanked the Permanent Representative of Cyprus with WMO, Mr Kyriakos Theophilou, for an important contribution that has now been made available to all Members, through its publication on the WMO Website (Info showcase).

Slovenia

On 4 September, the Secretary-General visited Ljubljana, Slovenia, on the occasion of the Sixth Annual Meeting of the European Meteorological Society (EMS) and the Sixth European Conference on Applied Climatology.

At the opening ceremony, Mr Jarraud made a presentation entitled "Climate information and services: leveraging opportunities and risk management". The Conference, which drew on experience presented by scientists and experts from European National Meteorological Services, research institutes, universities and private organizations, is one of the major regular events in European meteorology.

During his visit, the Secretary-General met with Mr Janez Podobnik, Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning of Slovenia, as well as with Dr David Burridge, President of EMS,

Mr Silvo Žlebir, Director General of the Environment Agency of the Republic of Slovenia, and Mr Jožef Roškar, Director of the Meteorology Office and Permanent Representative of Slovenia with WMO.

Peru

The Secretary-General visited Lima, Peru on the occasion of the 14th session of Regional Association III (South America), which was held in Lima from 7 to 13 September 2006. Mr Jarraud visited the Ministry of Defence and met with the Minister, HE Ambassador Allan Wagner Tizón.



Ljubljana, Slovenia, 4 September 2006 — The Secretary-General with some of the participants in the Sixth Annual Meeting of the European Meteorological Society: Janez Podobnik, Minister of Environment (sixth from right); Jozef Roskar, Permanent Representative of Slovenia with WMO (second from right); Silvo Zlebir, Director-General of the Environmental Agency of Slovenia (fourth from left); and David Burridge, President of EMS (second from left)



Lima, Peru, 7 September 2006 — Opening ceremony of the 14th session of RA III

the Permanent Mission of Benin to the United Nations and Chairman of the LDCs Group; and Mr Om Pradhan, representing the High Representative of UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries.

China

On 18 September, the Secretary-General visited Nanjing, China, to participate in the opening ceremony of the Tenth WMO Symposium on Education and Training, which was held at Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology (NUIST). Mr Jarraud delivered an opening address and met with HE Mr Liang Baohua, Governor of Jiangsu Provincial People's Government; HE Ms Huang Lixin, Vice Governor of Jiangsu; Mr Qin Dahe, Administrator of the China Meteorological Administration and Permanent Representative of China with WMO, and Mr Li Lianshui, President of NUIST.

The general theme for the Symposium was "Meteorological and hydrological education and training for disaster prevention and mitigation". The event covered three main topics, namely: "Preparedness—prevention and early warning"; "Mitigation—emergency relief and rehabilitation"; and "Interdisciplinary training". The Symposium reviewed the most recent developments and emerging trends in the field. Mr Jarraud was awarded honorary membership of the Chinese Meteorological Society.

The opening ceremony took place in the presence of Mr Renzo Chiri Márquez, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Defence; Mr Raúl Michelini, Acting President of RA III; and Mr Edison Díaz Villalta, Chief of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Service and Permanent Representative of Peru with WMO. Also present at the ceremony were Mr Pablo Cisneros Andrade and Mr Roberto Briceño Gordillo representing the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the General Commander of the Air Force, respectively.

The Secretary-General met with the permanent representatives of Members present in Lima for discussions on weather, climate and water issues, technical cooperation and the strengthening of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services.

Least Developed Countries meeting, New York

On 13 September, the Secretary-General visited the United Nations

Office in New York, on the occasion of the WMO special event on Weather, Climate and Water Services for Development and Disaster Mitigation in Least-Developed Countries (LDCs). The event was organized as part of the mid-term comprehensive global review of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA) for the LDCs for the decade 2001–2010. In his presentation, Mr Jarraud highlighted the role of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and stressed the important relationships between weather, climate and water and the development constraints and challenges of LDCs, in the context of the seven commitments of the Barbados Programme of Action for the LDCs.

Attending the event were HE Ms Maria Mutagamba, Minister for Water and Environment of Uganda and Chairperson of the African Ministers' Council on Water; HE Ambassador Filipe Chidumo, Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations; Mr Oussou Edouard Aho-Glele, Minister Counsellor of



Nanjing, China, September 2006 — Participants in the Tenth WMO Symposium on Education and Training

Russian Federation

On 26 September, the Secretary-General addressed the opening of the International Conference on the Problems of Hydrometeorological Security, which was organized in Moscow by the Russian Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring (Roshydromet). The Conference provided a comprehensive discussion forum focused on the problems related to monitoring and prediction of severe hydrometeorological phenomena, aimed at reducing the vulnerability of populations and economic losses. Representatives of academic and applied science institutions, universities, experts from Hydrometeorological Services, regional users of hydrometeorological information and representatives of various economic sectors of more than 30 countries took part in the Conference.

Mr A.I. Bedritsky, head of Roshydromet and President of the WMO, opened the Conference. The First Deputy of the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, D.A. Medvedev, and the President of the Federation Council, S.M. Mironov, addressed the Conference. Other distinguished speakers included A.N. Chilingarov, Plenipotentiary Representative of the President of the Russian Federation for the International Polar Year 2007-2008; V.N. Lipinsky, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Council for Hydrometeorology of the Commonwealth of Independent States; and Vice-Admiral C. Lautenbacher, Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of NOAA (USA).

Sweden

On 2 October, the Secretary-General travelled to Sweden to join the President of WMO, Mr Alexander Bedritsky, in presenting the 51st International Meteorological Organization (IMO) Prize to Lennart Bengtsson for his outstanding and lasting contributions to the science of meteorology. The



Norrköping, Sweden, 2 October 2006 — Presentation of the 51st IMO Prize (from left to right): Messrs Michel Jarraud, Alexander Bedritsky, Lennart Bengtsson and Ms Maria Agren

ceremony was held in Norrköping City Hall, in the presence of Ms Maria Agren, Director-General of the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute and Permanent Representative of Sweden with WMO, as well as other national and municipal authorities.

Management Oversight Board for the Strengthened International Strategy for Disaster Reduction System, New York

On 10 October, at the invitation of the UN Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Emergency Relief Coordinator and Chairperson of the Management Oversight Board (MOB) for the Strengthened International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) System, the Secretary-General of WMO participated in the second pre-Management Oversight Board meeting.

WMO is a member of the ISDR System Management Oversight Board, together with the World Bank, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme. The meeting

was attended by representatives of missions in New York, as well as the media, the private sector and foundations. Mr Jarraud delivered a statement on the commitment of WMO to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework For Action and stressed the critical role of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in relation to hazard monitoring, risk assessment and early warning systems. The event included a press conference, in which Mr Jarraud further elaborated on the critical role of WMO and NMHSs in disaster risk management.

Mozambique

The Secretary-General visited Mozambique on the occasion of the Seventh EUMETSAT Users Forum, which was held in Maputo from 16 to 20 October 2006. At the opening of the Forum, the Secretary-General made a keynote address in the presence of the President, HE Mr Armando Guebuza.

The Forum focused on the cooperation between EUMETSAT and its African user community. In particular, the forum reviewed the Preparation for the Use of METEOSAT Second Generation in Africa (PUMA) project and noted that lessons learnt should be used



Maputo, Mozambique, October 2006 — Mr Jarraud with Mr António Francisco Munguambe, Minister of Transport and Communications

to reinforce the proposed African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD) project. The Forum also recognized the important roles of WMO and the NMHSs in the implementation of AMESD, and made recommendations for their enhanced involvement in the project.

The Secretary-General met with the African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, Mrs Rosebud Kurwijila, and Mr Babagana Ahmadu, Director for Rural Economy and Agriculture. Mr Jarraud also met with Mr F. Lucio, permanent representative of Mozambique with WMO, and with other permanent representatives of Members participating in the Forum. They exchanged views on preparations for the 14th session of Regional Association I (Africa), to be held in Burkina Faso, in February 2007.

United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, New York

On 27 October, the Secretary-General participated in the second regular session of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for

New York, 27 October 2006 — The Secretary-General of WMO with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, on the occasion of the second regular session of the United Nations System Chief Executives' Board for Coordination



Coordination (CEB), which was chaired by the UN Secretary-General and held at UN headquarters in New York. The session addressed a number of high-priority programme and management issues, including employment and migration, the Least-Developed Countries (LDCs), relations with parliamentarians, gender mainstreaming, the UN System Staff College and results-based management. Following the session, a CEB retreat took place at Greentree Estate in Manhasset (New York), during which UN Executive Heads had discussions on system-wide coherence and reform issues.

India


On 30 October the Secretary-General visited New Delhi, India, to participate

in the opening ceremony of the 14th session of the WMO Commission for Agricultural Meteorology (CAGM). Present on the occasion were HE Mr K. Sibal, Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences; Mr P. S. Goel, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences; Mr S. Nair, Joint Secretary, Department of Science and Technology and Permanent Representative of India with WMO, and Mr B. Lal, Director General of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), and Mr R.P. Motha, president of CAGM.

The Secretary-General presented the 20th Professor Dr Vilho Vaisala Award for an Outstanding Research Paper on Instruments and Methods of Observation to Mr J.P. Pichamuthu (India), for his paper entitled



New Delhi, India, 31 October 2006 — The Secretary-General and HE Mr Kapil Sibal present the 20th Professor Dr Vilho Vaisala Award for an Outstanding Research Paper on Instruments and Methods of Observation to Mr J.P. Pichamuthu.



“Directional variation of visual range due to anisotropic atmospheric brightness”.

While in New Delhi, Mr Jarraud met with HE Mr Sharad Pawar, Minister of Agriculture, for discussions on weather, climate and sustainable agriculture in India. He also visited Mr N.C. Vij, Vice-Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority.